

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently amended) A nonwoven fabric comprising at least two separate
2 but interconnected layers, said fabric comprising hydroentangled and consolidated fibers in each
3 of the layers as well as being provided with discrete interconnections so as to provide discrete
4 voids between the two layers of fabric.

1 2. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1
2 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the voids comprise a channel within the structure of the fabric.

1 3. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1
2 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the voids comprise a plurality of channels.

1 4. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 2
2 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the channels have a substantially cylindrical or tubular shape.

1 5. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1
2 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the voids are arranged in a substantially uniform or periodic
3 manner.

1 6. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1
2 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the thickness of the nonwoven fabric is from 1 mm to 9 mm.

1 7. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1
2 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the area density of the nonwoven fabric is from 40 to 300
3 g/m².

1 8. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1, wherein
2 the voids comprise discrete channels within the body of the fabric.

1 9. (Canceled)

1 10. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 2
2 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the width of the channels are in the range from 0.2 mm to 8.5
3 mm.

1 11. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1, wherein
2 said voids further comprise one or more functional materials.

1 12. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 11
2 characterised characterized in that the functional material is a member selected from a yarn,
3 filament, wire, wax, gel, liquid, pulp and particle.

1 13. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1, wherein
2 ~~in which~~ the separate but interconnected layers are formed from a member selected from carded,
3 air-laid, wet-laid, spun-laid and meltblown webs and combinations thereof.

1 14. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1, wherein
2 the layers are fibrous, and wherein at least two fibrous layers are made of different fiber ~~fiber~~
3 types.

1 15. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 14,
2 wherein ~~in which~~ at least one fibrous layer is hydrophobic and at least one fibrous layer is
3 hydrophilic.

1 16. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 12,
2 wherein the functional material is a member selected from a yarn and a filament and said yarns
3 and filaments are made of a member selected from natural, man-made and mineral fibres.

1 17. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 12,
2 wherein the functional material is a liquid and said liquid is a member selected from cleaning
3 liquids, detergent liquids, paints, perfumes, cosmetics, lotions, ointments, antioxidants, liquid
4 nutrients and creams.

1 18. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 12,
2 wherein the functional material is a powder and said powder is a member selected from
3 superabsorbents, cleaning agents and medicaments.

1 19. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 12,
2 wherein the functional material is a particle and said particle is a member selected from a
3 ~~material called Silica~~ silica gel, activated carbon particles, metallic particles, ceramic particles,
4 polymer particles, phase change material (PCM) particles and seed particles.

1 20. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 12,
2 wherein the functional material is a wire and said wire is a member selected from electrically
3 conductive wires, shape memory alloy (SMA) wire and optical wires.

1 21. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 12,
2 wherein the functional material is a gel and said gel is a member selected from hydrogels,
3 medicinal gels and hygienic cleaning gels.

1 22-32. (Canceled)

1 33. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1
2 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the nonwoven fabric is suitable for the controlled release of
3 one or more medicaments.

1 34. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1
2 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the nonwoven fabric is suitable for containing or delivering
3 one or more cleaning fluids.

1 35. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1
2 ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the nonwoven fabric is in the form of an absorbent article.

1 36. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 35,
2 wherein the absorbent article is a member selected from a wipe, a wound dressing, a baby diaper
3 component, an incontinence pad, and a feminine hygiene absorbent pad.

1 37-40. (Canceled)

1 41. (Currently amended) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1
2 ~~characterised in that, wherein~~ the nonwoven fabric is suitable for light-weight thermal insulation.

1 42. (Currently amended) The use of the a nonwoven fabric according to claim
1 in the manufacture of an article.

1 43. (Currently amended) The use according to claim 38 ~~42~~ wherein the article
is a member selected from a medicament delivery device, a cleaning fluids delivery device, an

absorbent article, a wipe, a wound dressing, a baby diaper component, an incontinence pad, a feminine hygiene absorbent pad and a thermal insulation material.

44. (Previously presented) A method of delivering a functional material which comprises the use of the nonwoven fabric according to claim 1.

45. (New) The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1 wherein the voids are coated with a vapour permeable PU polymer.